major international currencies against the US dollar. The remaining decline of US$ 20.1 billion (34.7 per cent) was due to higher current account deficit vis-a-vis capital account inflows, which could be attributed to global economic crisis.

The exchange rate policy is guided by the broad principles of careful monitoring and management of exchange rates with flexibility, while allowing the underlying demand and supply conditions to determine the exchange rate movements over a period in an orderly manner. Subject to this predominant objective, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) intervention in the foreign exchange market is guided by the objectives to reduce excess volatility, prevent the emergence of destabilizing speculative activities, maintain adequate level of reserves, and develop an orderly foreign exchange market.

Fake currency notes

†*259. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that fake currency notes of Rs. 1000 denomination bearing series 2AQ and 8AC amounting to Rs. 2000 crore have been detected;

(b) if so, the place of their origin and when Government came to know about them;

(c) the steps taken by Government to check the circulation of fake notes;

(d) whether Government is importing paper for printing notes; and

(e) if so, the reasons for not producing the paper required for printing the notes in the country itself so that printing of fake notes could be checked?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) the (b) The Anti Terrorist Squad (ATS), Mumbai seized 345 pieces of Rs. 1000 denomination (value—Rs. 3,45,000) fake notes bearing series 2AQ and 8AC on 14th May, 2009 and the matter was reported immediately to the Government.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to curb circulation of Fake India Currency Notes (FICN) in the country include stepping up of vigilance by the Border Security Force and Custom authorities to prevent smuggling of fake notes; dissemination of information on security features through print and electronic media and formation of Forged Note Vigilance Cells in all the Head Offices of the banks. Additional security features have also been incorporated in the bank notes in 2005 to make counterfeiting very difficult. A High Level Committee headed by the Union Home Secretary comprising officials from central agencies and other senior police officials has been constituted to monitor and draw up a comprehensive strategy to combat FICN. Similar bodies have also been set up in the States. In addition, Government of India have nominated the Central Bureau of Investigation as the Nodal Agency to monitor investigation of fake currency note cases. The RBI has also strengthened the mechanism for detection of counterfeit notes by the Banks.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) and (e) Bank Note printing presses are importing paper for printing of bank notes as the indigenous production capacity is not sufficient to meet the requirement.

Implementation of right to free education

*260. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is proposing to give right to free education for the children from 6 to 14 years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, by when such right will be given to the children?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) Article 21A, as inserted by the Constitution (Eighty-Sixth Amendment) Act, 2002, provides for free and compulsory education of all children in the age group of six to fourteen years as a Fundamental Right in such manner as the State may, by law, determine.

Consequently, the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Bill, 2008, has been introduced in the Rajya Sabha. The Bill, *inter-alia*, provides that every child in the age group of six to fourteen years shall have the right to free and compulsory education in a neighbourhood school till completion of elementary education.

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WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Technical faults in planes

†1796. SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the planes are not in service due to technical faults;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these planes have been grounded due to technical reasons and are not in operation; and

(d) the specific reasons therefor and losses being incurred to airlines as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) No aircraft with technical fault is put into service. The aircraft are grounded due to various technical reasons such as snags, foreign object damage/bird hit, ground incidents, non-availability of spares etc. Government does not maintain separate record of losses incurred by airlines due to grounding of aircraft due to technical fault.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.